



POWDERHAM CASTLE

VICTORIAN LEARNING PROGRAMME
EDUCATIONAL VISITS HANDBOOK



POWDERHAM CASTLE is the home of the Earl and Countess of Devon. It has been in the Courtenay family for over 600 years and is steeped in history.

During the Victorian period the Castle was remodelled by the Exeter born architect Charles Fowler. William, the 10th Earl of Devon admired the Victorian Gothic style so much that a large portion of the Castle was redesigned and additions were made. Today this is reflected in the solid, practical and ornate architecture most visible at the Castle and changes such as the castellation of the skyline and addition of the dining room. The servants' areas were also added or remodelled and this learning programme looks at the differences in lifestyle between Henry, the 13th Earl and his household staff in the 1890's and the progress made today.



The Kitchen and Servants Hall have been restored to their former glory in order to provide an authentic learning environment for all. The Heritage Lottery Fund has supported this programme with grant funding.





INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL VISITS

A school visit is most suitable for children studying Key Stages 1 and 2. We recommend that schools arrive at 10.00am and stay until 2.00pm

On arrival groups are met by a costumed member of staff who will give the pupils a short welcome talk. This will include a general orientation, an outline of the facilities available, timings as well as basic health and safety information.

A visit to the Castle can achieve a number of cross-curricular aims in addition to those relating to specific history units. For example literacy, art (portraits), geography, maths will be touched upon in the 2 main sessions.

The areas we cover in the two sessions are:

1. About our local area, its estuary location, farming and travel
2. Houses and homes including architecture, cooking, kitchen technology, lighting, water, energy provision and hygiene
3. A comparison of life in domestic service with that of the Earl and his family
4. Children in Victorian Britain, their toys and games

There are 2 main sessions led by our 1890's Cook and Housekeeper, which last approximately 45 minutes each. Students are expected to participate in an active manner.

THE VICTORIAN ERA LEARNING PROGRAMME

The Scenario - to be considered before arrival:

Children take the role of Victorian school children that have been invited to the Castle to undertake work experience with a view to possible employment 'in service' on leaving school. They meet key characters, hear about their life and try some of the work for themselves.

We encourage children and teachers to dress up in Victorian costume and think about why they may like to work as a servant at the Castle. Back at school they might like to think about the jobs their parents do today, if the job existed in the Victorian period and how it may have changed.



We can run 2 sessions consecutively with up to 26 students in each session:

1) In the Kitchen with Cook:

Cooking and all aspects of food – farming, seasons, deliveries, raw ingredients, menus will be discussed. There will be a cookery demonstration; griddle cakes will be made for everyone, using Victorian kitchen implements. Pupils will be encouraged to think about the ingredients, compare kitchen utensils and learn about working conditions.

2) Housekeeper's helpers:

Pupils will accompany the Housekeeper on her daily inspection of the Castle, carpet beating, sweeping, dusting along the way. The Housekeeper will contrast her life in service with life as Lord of the Manor as she goes about her rounds. She will use some of the portraits to discuss clothes and highlight the relevant Victorian features in the rooms and discuss their benefits e.g. gas lighting.

Other activities will be carried out and the Housekeeper will supervise Victorian chores such as boot polishing and floor cleaning in the Servants Hall.

TIMETABLE

- 10.00am** Arrive – ideally already in costume. Walk to the Servants Hall from car park, via toilets, name badges supplied
- 10.30am** Welcome from Housekeeper and split into groups, if necessary
- 10.45am** Session 1 In Kitchen with Cook
Session 2 Housekeeper’s Helpers
- 11.30am** Lunch, Victorian toy box session with teachers
- 12.30pm** Session 1 In Kitchen with Cook
Session 2 Housekeeper’s Helpers
- 1.15/1.30pm** All children to Servants Hall for announcement on suitability for employment in the 13th Earl of Devon’s household. Teachers will be given a certificate to take back to school for each child
- 1.45/2.00pm** Shop visit and depart (Victorian style souvenirs available)

LUNCH TIME

There is one session for each group before and after lunch. During lunchtime a Victorian toy box will be available for children to investigate with their teachers. A list of contents will be provided on booking.

Lunch can be eaten in the Servants Hall or outside in the grounds on dry days. Sandwiches and other refreshments are also available from our tearooms between April and the end of October.



BOOKING INFORMATION

Advance booking is essential. Please telephone the Bookings Department on 01626 890243 for further information or to make a booking. Bookings will not be confirmed until you have finalized your transport arrangements to us.

School visits are available year round Monday to Friday and we recommend a ratio of 1 adult per every 5 children. Please tell us in advance if you have children with disabilities or other special needs.

On confirmation of booking we will send you the guide risk assessment, timetable for the day, ideas for Victorian clothing and a list of the Victorian toys in the toy box.

Due to other regular activities at the Castle the timings have to be exact so as not to let anyone down. If you are late arriving, then unfortunately your session time will be reduced.

Admission Costs and Payment

We allow 1 free adult with every 5 children. There is a flat rate of £5.00 per person.

Schools are expected to pay in advance or on the day by cheque, made payable to 'Powderham Castle'. In the event of incorrect or late payment an invoice will be issued but it will include an administration fee of £15.

In the event of cancellation within 21 days a charge of £40 will be made.

Group Size

We can accommodate up to 52 children. If the group is less than 26 it will not be split.

Advance Planning visit

Advance visits are free for teachers, but you need to make an appointment with the bookings department, so that we can meet with you and talk through your day.

Facilities

- Free advance planning visit for teachers
- Free parking
- Grounds for picnicking and games
- Gift shop well stocked with Victorian pocket money items and ice creams
- Tea Room
- Partial access is available for disabled visitors; however access to the Victorian kitchen is via steps



Health and Safety

Powderham Castle is a working estate. It is also a tourist attraction attracting 40,000 visitors per year. There are a number of issues to be considered and we have carried out a risk assessment on your behalf. This will be sent to you on confirmation of your booking. However, we do recommend that you carry out your own assessment of the risks too.

We expect children to be supervised by accompanying adults at all times. Our costumed guides are there to facilitate the session, and cannot be expected to manage the group or leave the room. Under no circumstances should children/students be left unsupervised.

Although we have first aid trained staff on site, we recommend that you have a first aider in your group and bring your own first aid box. We understand that this is already policy in some schools.

In the event of a fire your facilitators will lead you from the Castle to the meeting point. Fire equipment is regularly tested and practice evacuations take place. The welcome briefing will cover this in more detail.

We want your group to really enjoy and learn from their day out, and we also want you to be safe whilst you are with us. Please be aware that as a 600-year-old Castle there are many uneven surfaces and steps of various widths. To avoid accidents, it is advised that children/students take care and do not run around any area.

